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SEVENTY WALK TO OVERCOME POVERTY

With temperatures in the mid-60s, the 43rd annual Van Buren County CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk was held Sunday afternoon, April 27. Stepping off at the Paw Paw United Methodist Church, the walk made its way through Downtown Paw Paw, before returning to the church. Approximately 70 people from around the area took part in the walk. Eleanor Dunlop, who will turn 102 this summer, has participated in all the walks since its inception. She is shown with her daughter, Joan, and son-in-law, John Anglin. A total of 25 percent of the funds raised will be returned and given to six area food pantries in Van Buren County, while the rest will go to Church World Servies for national and international relief projects. Donated food items were boxed and given to three area pantries.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

Volunteers honored for longtime service

Retired Paw Paw business owners, Mike and Marlene Lake, who operated M & M Sweet Shop in downtown Paw Paw for 21 years, retiring in 1993, retired last week from their volunteer jobs at Lakeview Foundation Community Thrift Shop. Mike, 82, served as a volunteer for 14 years, while Marlene, 87, had 12 years of volunteer service at the Paw Paw thrift shop.

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

Destination Paw Paw builds momentum at community recap event

Destination Paw Paw, a division of the Van Buren County CVB, gathered community members and partners at St. Julian Winery, here, on April 24 to celebrate the early successes of its newly launched brand.

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

PAW PAW - Destination Paw Paw, a division of the Van Buren County CVB, gathered community members and partners at St. Julian Winery, here, on April 24 to celebrate the early successes of its newly launched brand. Destination Paw Paw officially launched in July 2024 to highlight the village's unique wine, music, and cultural scenes. The CVB and its efforts are funded by lodging within South Haven and Van Buren County, with approximately eight percent of those funds coming directly from Paw Paw hotels, including Baymont, Comfort Inn, Econo Lodge, and Oak Cove Resort, helping fuel the organization's growing efforts.

As part of its commitment to strengthening local tourism, the CVB, with support from the Paw Paw Downtown Development Authority, contracted Janice Chittle as Paw Paw's dedicated marketing manager last year. This investment has allowed the CVB to accelerate marketing initiatives and bring even greater focus to Paw Paw's unique offerings.

The CVB has always promoted the area, but a fresh brand and recent efforts have stepped up significantly. New billboards, expanded advertising, media features - including a WOODTV Channel 8 news segment - and storytelling videos produced with Boileau Communications have boosted Paw Paw's visibility. One of these videos was even showcased at the Governor's Conference on Tourism, where Jason Deibler-Love from The Lucky Wolf was recognized during the Stories of Inspiration segment and took the stage immediately following the Governor.

Looking ahead, the CVB's branch of Destination Paw Paw is preparing for the public launch of a new website. A first look at the work-in-progress website was unveiled during the event and plans to be mainstreamed by the summer.

Paw Paw winery demolishes building for expanded parking

The demolition of a former auto dealership, then converted to several small shops, took place last week in Paw Paw on Kalamazoo Street. The building, owned by St. Julian Winery, located adjacent to the site, was razed to make way for expanded parking for the state's oldest winery. The conversion is expected to be done by mid-May.

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

Baseline Road crash ends with truck in lake, one dead, several injured

Jordan Wilcox
Assistant Publisher

Around 7:30pm on Saturday, April 26th, Allegan County Sheriff's deputies were called to the scene of a tragic vehicle crash on Baseline Road, near Hillside Drive and Baseline Lake, in-between Allegan and Gobles.

According to the Sheriff's Office, a westbound pickup truck driver lost control of their vehicle, crossed over the centerline, and side-swiped another truck heading eastbound. The collision then forced the westbound vehicle to veer off of the roadway and hit several bystanders, a tree, and flip over into a shallow portion of Baseline Lake.

Two of the bystanders, as well as the driver and passenger of the westbound truck, were immediately rushed to the hospital. Authorities said one of the bystanders has unfortunately succumbed to their injuries, but have not released the other three's conditions.

No one in the eastbound truck was hurt.

The names and information of everyone involved are being withheld as authorities continue to investigate

In the Southwest Michigan Scanner Facebook group, one resident of Baseline Lake shared a little bit more context. She said there was a mother, a father, and their young daughter sitting by the lake reading a book, when all of a sudden, this white pickup came speeding down Baseline Lake with a seemingly intoxicated driver. The white pickup hit another oncoming truck and careened into the father and daughter.

Although, Wilcox Newspapers was unable to verify her claims, the Allegan County Sheriff's Office has said that they suspect both speed and alcohol contributed to the devastating crash.

Speaker Series explores Big Business of College Sports

Greg Dooley

SOUTH HAVEN, MI —The evolving landscape of mega money in college sports, is the topic of Greg Dooley, University of Michigan professor and host of The Professor and the Pundit podcast, when he speaks Thursday May 8th at Lake Michigan College, South Haven Campus. The event is presented by the South Haven Speakers Series.

Greg Dooley will explore the powerful economic forces shaping today's college sports—from historical developments to today's groundbreaking changes. He will look at the rise and fall of the NCAA and the fight for athletes' rights. Dooley talks about the turbulence in college sports today from paying players, the transfer portal, conference alignments and where we are heading.

"Dooley is known for his engaging presentations and deep insight into the business side of athletics", said series board member Joan Bauer. "This makes him a highly sought-after voice in discussions about the future of college sports", she concluded.

"Greg Dooley is a vibrant and insightful speaker," said board member Dave Murphey. "His understanding of the business behind college sports is unparalleled."

Elaine Stephens, president of the South Haven Speakers Series, added, "To truly understand the dramatic changes in college athletics, it's essential to understand the history behind them. Our speaker will provide that critical context."

Join us at 6:30 p.m. for a wine and cheese reception, followed by the presentation at 7 p.m. Admission is $10, and students attend free of charge.

The South Haven Speakers Series is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Approximately three-quarters of the Series budget comes from generous donors. Further information can be found at the Series website southhavenspeakersseries.org.

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Eastbound I-94 pavement repairs in Van Buren County underway

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Causie Contracting Inc. began work Monday on a $1.3 million investment to perform full-depth pavement repairs on eastbound I-94 between Paw Paw and Mattawan.

The project is expected to be completed by Friday, May 23. There will be single-lane closures.

Based on economic modeling, this investment is expected to directly and indirectly support 12 jobs.

This investment will improve the driving surface and safety for motorists, as well as extending the life of the roadway.

Mattawan schools construction project now underway

March 10 marked a historic milestone for Mattawan Consolidated School as the district broke ground on the first phase of a comprehensive, multi-year school construction project. This initiative follows the approval of a $110 million school construction bond by voters in May 2024. The project, now marking just over seven weeks, has seen significant progress made at the football stadium, including installing silt fencing, decommissioning the football scoreboard, removing the south goal post, and removing the skate park, which will be relocated elsewhere in the community (to be determined). Excavation of the field began alongside the removal of the track surface. Also included in the school construction bond is the replacement of student and teacher furniture in both the middle and high schools. According to Mattawan Consolidated School Superintendent Randy Fleenor, to ensure the best selection, teams have visited multiple industry-leading furniture suppliers, touring showcase rooms to evaluate modern, functional options that will enhance the learning environment. Several debrief meetings have taken place to discuss findings and narrow down potential suppliers. The next step in the process will involve selected suppliers presenting their equipment for building staff and staff to pilot this fall and provide feedback on. Much of the existing furniture is over 25 years old, and the new selections will usher in updated, modern environments for both students and staff, fostering a more comfortable and engaging learning experience.

Photos courtesy/Mattawan Consolidated School

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Fire destroys Geneva Township Camper

Services responded on Sunday morning to a fire that destroyed a camper trailer on property on 16th Avenue near CR681, Geneva Township.

The trailer, which was not occupied at the time, was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived on scene. The cause remains under investigation. No injuries were reported.

April is closing as a very busy month for SHAES responders who answered several structure-type fire alarms.

Maxwell baseball photo and plaque together again at Paw Paw Library

A plaque of former Detroit Tiger Charlie Maxwell "Ol' Paw Paw" once housed in the former Michigan Sports Hall of Fame at Cobo Hall, Detroit, in 1997 following his induction, and now donated on loan to the Paw Paw District Library, and a missing baseball photo of Maxwell, also formerly housed at Cobo, are back together on display at the library. The two items are shown together in a photo with Maxwell and his wife, Ann, following his induction in 1997 into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. The missing Maxwell baseball photo was found in a Lansing antique store by Will Pugsley and his wife, Sue, of Lawrence, shown at right, who purchased it and donated it to the library. The couple are shown with Maxwell's daughter, Cindy, at left.

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - A plaque of former Detroit Tiger Charlie Maxwell "Ol' Paw Paw" once housed in the former Michigan Sports Hall of Fame at Cobo Hall, Detroit, in 1997 following his induction, and now donated on loan to the Paw Paw District Library, and a missing baseball photo of Maxwell, also formerly housed at Cobo, are back together now on display at the library.

The photo was recently found in an antique store in Lansing, thanks to Will and Sue Pugsley of Lawrence, who purchased the framed 3-by-4-foot photo and donated it to the library.

The couple had seen the photo last summer hanging up in the antique store. When they returned to the antique store last December for an open house, they noticed that it wasn't in the same spot. They asked about its location and found that it had been moved a short distance away from its previous spot.

Pugsley asked the antique dealer where he had purchased it, and he was told that it came from an estate sale in Flint a few years earlier.

How the photo, which was housed at Cobo and made its way to Flint, remains a mystery.

Pugsley purchased the photo and returned it to Maxwell, prior to Maxwell's death in Dec. 27, 2024. "I decided on a whim to buy it," said Pugsley.

Maxwell spent 14 years in major league baseball, with the Tigers, Chicago White Sox Boston Red Sox and Baltimore Orioles. He retired in 1964. Prior to his death, he was the oldest living alumnus of the Detroit Tigers, Boston Red Sox, and Chicago White Sox.

The Village of Paw Paw Historical Commission sponsored "Charlie Maxwell Days, Aug. 7 and 8, 2010. The event included a display of memorabilia from Maxwell's playing career, the dedication of a two-sided monument stone honoring Maxwell, a public reception and parade. The ballfield at Tyler Field was named the Charlie Maxwell Ball Diamond.

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Lee Township prepares to unveil 2000 time capsule

Sally Moore and Dan Ciokiewicz hold a copy of the South Haven Tribune that holds their pictures and reported on the burying of the Lee Township Time Capsule in 2000. Though the paper listing the contents has been misplaced, the exact contents will be revealed before the Lee Township meeting on Monday, May 12, 2025.

Rich Rawson, Lee Township Supervisor, Lisa Galdikas (previous trustee), Scott Owen (previous supervisor), young Dan Ciokiewicz (Dan's son), Sally Moore (previous supervisor), Mike Curley (cemetery superintendent), and Dan Ciokiewicz (previous trustee) look forward to opening the Lee Township Time Capsule that was filled and buried in 2000.

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, a group of Lee Township residents gathered at the Lee Township Cemetery on 105th Avenue and 53rd Street to dig up the Lee Township Time Capsule that was filled and buried in 2000.

2000 Trustee Dan Ciokiewicz and 2000 Township Supervisor Sally Moore, two of the original group that collected articles, summoned a small crew to uncover the capsule. Ciokiewicz with the assistance of Mike Curley, the cemetery superintendent, dug under the plaque near the veteran's memorial in the middle of the cemetery to locate the 25 year old tube.

After seeking information from several who remember placing items in the capsule, it was discovered that the Table of Contents sheet had been misplaced. A couple pieces were remembered like a Pokemon card. Deb Laraway remembers putting in newspaper articles with the news of the day. Ciokiewicz and Moore will be as surprised as others when the contents are laid out on tables.

With the assistance of Scott Owen (previous supervisor), Lisa Galdikas (previous trustee), Dan Ciokiewicz (Dan's son), Rich Rawson (current supervisor), and Curley, the capsule was pulled from its hole. It will be carried to the Lee Township Hall and opened prior to the beginning of the Lee Township Meeting on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 7pm.

On May 12, 2025, articles will be collected to place in the 2025 Lee Township Time Capsule that will be buried for the next 25 years.

Ciokiewicz stated, "Any business, organization or individual who would like to participate can included items in the new capsule. Some ideas would be photos of the building or anything pertaining to the business, a brief history, or information about employees, owners or members, a prediction for the future, or anything else imaginable."

What is important to remember is that the articles will be collected on May 12, 2025.

"I had a lot of fun putting the capsule together in 2000, and this time should be even more enjoyable," shared Ciokiewicz.

"I again thank the Lee Township Board of 2000 for allowing this to take place, and I thank the 2025 Lee Township Board for allowing the recovery and addition of the new time capsule to the cemetery," expressed Ciokiewicz. "Mark the calendar for May 12, 2025."

Fallen Road Commission worker honored on National Work Zone Memorial

LAWRENCE - As National Work Zone Awareness Week recently marked its 26th year, the Van Buren County Road Commission helped spread the nationwide message of safety to raise vital attention to the risks that workers, motorists and pedestrians face in roadway work zones every day. This year's theme was "Respect the zone so we all get home.

"The Van Buren County Road Commission is deeply honored, yet profoundly saddened, to share that the name of its late road worker, René Rangel, Jr., has been permanently engraved into the National Work Zone Memorial this year. His inclusion serves as a lasting tribute and a poignant reminder of the critical importance of work zone safety," said Bret Witkowski, managing director of the Van Buren County Road Commission.

"It only takes a split second of distraction to change lives forever," said Witkowski. "We strongly encourage motorists to pay attention to signs and slowdown in work zones. We can fix our roads and bridges safely if we all work together."

The National Work Zone Memorial travels across the United States each year to raise awareness of the need to respect and stay safe in America's roadway work zones. The Clare Welcome Center, located on US-127 NB/SB, Clare, MI, will once again host the National Work Zone Memorial between June 26 - July 6, 2025. This special memorial honors the lives of more than 1,600 people, including René Rangel, Jr., who have been killed in work zone crashes throughout the United States. It's a living tribute displaying the names of those killed, while raising awareness for work zone safety and safe driving habits.

Peake honored as Kalamazoo/ Paw Paw's Businessperson of 2025

Alignable, the largest online networking platform for small businesses, recently announced that Robyn Wilson Peake of Healthy Benefit Solutions has been named Kalamazoo/ Paw Paw's 2025 Business Person of the Year.

Alignable's 2025 Local Businessperson of the Year Contest reached unparalleled participation levels, logging a whopping 333,000+ votes, 77,000+ recommendations, and 4,750 winners across the United States and Canada.

"In our local business community, we look out for each other and refer businesses down the street or around the corner to help make everyone in town as successful as possible," said Peake. "And the challenges we've all encountered have compelled many of us to offer counsel to peers fighting to keep their businesses afloat. While I'm thrilled to receive this award, it's really a testament to our entire community."

Paw Paw Community Chorus spring concert to be held May 4

PAW PAW - The Paw Paw Community Chorus will present their annual Spring Concert, Sunday, May 4, at 4 p.m., at the Paw Paw United Methodist Church, 420 W. Michigan Ave., here.

The chorus, under the direction of Theresa Vaughn, will be accompanied on piano by Evonne Heystek.

The following selections to be presented by the chorus include "Appalachian Celebration" (Wildwood Flower, He's Gone Away, Sourwood Mountain)/ arr. by Earlene Rentz, "Nine Hundred Miles"/ Traditional American Folk Song/Arr. by Philip E. Silvey, "Bring Us Hope" by Ruth Elaine Schram/Samantha Thomas-Cellist, "The Times They Are A-Changin' by Bob Dylan/arr. by Adam Podd, "1650 Broadway" (Splish Splash, Love Potion Number 9, Poison Ivy, Yakety Yak, There Goes My Baby and Stupid Cupid) arr. by Roger Emerson, "You Are My Hero" by Ruth Elaine Schram, "Puttin' On The Ritz" by Irving Berlin/arr. by Kirby Shaw, "You Made Me Love You" by Joe McCarthy and James Monaco/arr. by Jay Althouse, "Folk Song Suite" arranged by Jay Althouse.

Although there is no admission charge to this concert, voluntary donations are very much appreciated.

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for more info.

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Pocket Gallery exhibit opens with the work of Sarah Rydecki

By James Windell

The South Haven Center for the Arts opens it Pocket Gallery season with an opening reception on Thursday, May 1, 2025.

Sarah Rydecki, a local artist and art teacher, will be displaying her mixed media work in the Pocket Gallery from May 2 to May 31.

"The Pocket Gallery is our smaller gallery," says Kerry Hagy, Executive Director of the Center for the Arts. "We just renovated this exhibit area off of our main gallery last year."

The Pocket Gallery season runs from May through October and features artists who are members of the South Haven Center for the Arts. Hagy says that most of the six artists whose work will be exhibited this season are South Haven artists. Among those having their own exhibitions are acrylic painter Bobbi Gumino, photographer Sherry Saenz and artist Dorothy Sherrod.

As the first show in the Pocket Gallery's fifth season, Sarah Rydecki's work will be featured. "I'm mostly a mixed media artist," says Rydecki, who is a retired South Haven Schools art teacher. "The work that I'm compiling for this show is needle felting, but I'm combining it with gouache painting on wooden blocks and encaustic painting. So, I'm using the theme of wool, wood and wax."

Encaustic painting is a method of painting that involves a heated wax medium to which colored pigments have been added.

Rydecki says that her work is always evolving.

"When I first found out I was going to be the artist for the month of May," she says, "I thought it would be completely felt, but it's changed a bit since. I think my work has changed with the circumstances. Right now, I'm doing more drawing and painting than I thought I would be doing. Perhaps it's been an outlet during the past three months because of anxiety and worry. It's been a break from the news."

Rydecki, who teaches art classes for children and adults at the Center for The Arts, also said that the Pocket Gallery concept in which artists have a solo exhibition for a month is great for artists. "The best thing about the Pocket Gallery is that it allows artists to grow and spread their wings," she says. "And it gives more artists a chance to show their work."

Following Rydecki's show, painter Bobbi Gumino will be exhibiting throughout the month of June.

The opening reception of Sarah Rydecki's work takes place at the South Haven Center for the Arts, 600 Phoenix Street, South Haven, on Thursday, May 1, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. The exhibition runs from May 2 through May 31. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm and Thursdays 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. There is no admission charge at the Center for the Arts.

For more information, visit the South Haven Center for the Arts website at //www.southhavenarts.org/event-details/sarah-rydecki-pocket-gallery-opening-reception

South Haven club to present history lessons

By James Windell

When South Haven students sign up for the History Club, they can be sure of at least two things.

One, that they will be receiving the guidance of a master history mentor. And, two, that they will compete in District, State and National History Day competitions.

According to Julie Sheppard, the South Haven History Club teacher, four of her current students will be presenting their projects at the Scott Club in South Haven on Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

Sheppard, who has been the teacher running the History Club for the past 16 years, just received a Special Tribute from the Michigan Legislature for her commitment and successes with the South Haven History Club. Fresh off recent honors at the State competition, where the South Haven History Club won awards and recognition in more than a dozen categories, in June the club will be going to the National Historv Day contest in Baltimore, Maryland.

Thirty-four of Sheppard's 39 students competed in the State Finals at Central Michigan University in April, 2025. In the State Finals, the History Club students were recognized for the Best Entry in Michigan History, the Best Entry in Naval or Maritime History, the Best Entry in African- American History, the Adler Award for Best Entry in Women's History, and the James Campbell Award for Best Use of Oral History.

Sheppard expects her students to do well in the National Finals. For 16 years consecutive years, South Haven History Club students have competed in the national contest.

When the students present at the Scott Club, the overall theme of the presentations will be Rights and Responsibilities in History. The students selected to present will be Jacob Kaczmarek who will show his "The Evolving Role of the President: Rights and Responsibilities Through History" documentary; Tori Couturier, Madison Crichton and Juliet Wagner who will collectively present "Hitting a Home Run: The Babes of Baseball and Women's Right to Play"; Hayden Washegesic presenting on "Save a Walleye, Spear and Indian"; and Caitlin Knizewski and Ireland Stratton will offer their documentary "My Body, Their Choice? Rights and Responsibilities Behind the HeLa Cells."

Sheppard, who is a 5th grade teacher at North Shore Elementary School, is passionate about helping her History Club students to excel. "The South Haven History Club is a club that gives students the opportunity to work on projects that allow them to display their projects in a lot of different ways," she says. "It's a way for them to become better global citizens and to be more aware of diverse perspectives."

History, Sheppard says, is very important for young people. "I really think that learning about history, not burying it and not pretending like it doesn't matter, is so vital for our future," she says. She adds that history is not always pleasant to revisit.

"It's like my son said to me recently, 'Mom, if learning about history doesn't make you a little uncomfortable then you're not doing it right.' That really stuck with me," she says. "He's right. History should teach us not to do it the same way again."

The South Haven Scott Club, an all-volunteer organization that presents bimonthly arts and cultural programs, is located at 652 Phoenix Street, South Haven.

The South Haven History Club will present "Rights and Responsibilities in History" on Tuesday, May 6 at 1:00 pm. There is no charge for admission. For a Zoom link for a program or more information about Scott Club, email info@scottclub.org

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VIEWPOINT

Number of college administrators alarming

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

Many of you have read my rants concerning higher education. I believe the cost is outrageous and it certainly far outweighs the benefit most students receive.

One of the reasons costs have risen extensively over the past decade is that universities and colleges have added hundreds of new administrators to their payroll. Thus they have determined more administrators are needed despite college enrollment decreasing.

I can remember when I was in college, we had three administrators- a president, a provost and admissions director. Granted it was a small college, 1400 students, but compared to today's world we were beyond frugal.

College enrollment is decreasing, you didn't know. Yes, it is predicted, according to Forbes, that enrollment will fall by 15 percent in the next four years. That likely means several schools will close their doors.

But in the meantime, many schools have determined they need more administrators. For what, it is a mystery. Between 1976 and 2018, full-time administrators and other professionals employed by institutions of higher learning increased by 164% and 452% respectively. Compare that to increased student enrollment of 78% and increased faculty positions by 92%.

Essentially that means faculty and student enrollment is on par, but administrative hirings have increased substantially. Some schools reportedly have more full-time administrators than students. To name a few one only must look at Duke, University of California at San Diego and the California Institute of Technology. Each has several more administrators than actual full-time students on campus.

Looking at individual schools the numbers are even more striking. A recent report showed the top 50 schools have 1 faculty per 11 students whereas the same report shows the same institutions have 1 non-faculty per 4 students. I'm sorry those statistics should be switched. No way should there be more administrators than faculty.

I can't imagine what purpose these administrators serve and why in the world would there be more of them than students. The aforementioned numbers don't even include the myriad of consultants and contractors that are hired by admissions offices to promote the schools and boost enrollments.

Forbes claims the explosion of administrators has occurred because of more government regulations and the natural tendency of administrators to solve most problems by hiring more administrators.

They also claim the explosion would never have happened without the growing availability of federal aid and student loans. Instead of pouring the additional monies in to more programs for students or adding more professors, institutions decided the best route was to hire more and more administrators.

Forbes concluded, "With no market or regulatory forces to contain the reckless spending behavior of colleges and universities, school presidents have focused on fundraising, not good management."

It will be interesting to see with the decreasing enrollment projections at most schools of higher learning (we are already experiencing it in Michigan} how they will handle the administrative bloat. Will they begin to lay them off, or will they risk closing their doors? I don't want to see anyone lose their job, but in this environment, something has to give.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

If there is anything good to be said about doing mindless work such as blowing leaves out of the ground cover, it is that I allow my brain to wander off and play. When it comes back and we reengage, I discover it has some interesting adventures to share. The other day was a good example: I started thinking about hood ornaments on cars.

If you are an Old of a certain age, or a fan of vintage autos, you will remember hood ornaments. Originally, they served a purpose as the radiator cap, but they were designed and built to add more beauty to the vehicle. In time, they became more elaborate. For a few decades they were also a convenient place to hold a canvas bag full of water, always ready to be poured into an over-heating radiator.

Then, when canvas bags were no longer essential for the cooling system, and the radiator cap was moved under the hood, they had far less purpose, but for a while the ornaments continued. Each manufacturer had their own design. Jaguar had a big cat ready to pounce; Rolls Royce had their flying lady, and so on. They were a bit whimsy, but in time they disappeared, only to be replaced by a small metallic emblem on the hood.

In short, automobile hood ornaments were demoted to what might be called "useless beauty." That happened to other decorations as well. Remember how the Buick had vent holes in the fenders that were connected to the exhaust system. Long after the exhaust went through the tail pipe, Buick continued this traditional symbol.

Look for it, and you can find what some would call useless beauty in many places. If you have ever visited San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, you will come across hundreds of centuries old wooden doors. Doors are functional, which means they are used to keep things either in or out of the house. Many of these old doors are magnificently carved, and carefully preserved as objects of beauty that some might consider "useless." Why bother with the extra expense and work of a carved door? Fortunately, when SMA became a World Heritage Site, the city ordered the doors to be preserved.

Or look at some of the pictures of the entrances to the subways of Paris - the Metropolitan. Some are more than a century old and are beautifully crafted iron signs in the Art Nouveau and Art Deco styles. They add a bit of beauty to the streetscape. Compare their beauty to the dull subway signs in Chicago, New York, and elsewhere. To be sure, the new styles convey the same message, but which is more appealing to the eye? Or is it merely 'useless beauty?'

There are many other such example, and together they prove that beauty is never useless. You and I spend considerable money and effort to plant and maintain a flower garden, but the blooms last for such a short time. Some would say we should stop doing it because it is too expensive. We should pave it over, put down grass seed, or plant vegetables instead. Yet, we do it because flowers add beauty to our life, and therein is their usefulness. We might cut a few steps, put them in a vase, and set them on our dining room table as a way of bringing beauty into our home.

Pat was a real stickler for adding "useless beauty" to almost everything. The dining room table had to be set so that everything on it was aligned and balanced, not strewn about like casually dealt playing cards. She did not see food as mere fuel for the body, but an opportunity to create something that looked beautiful, and presented artistically. It did not matter if we were having a 'fancy meal' or a salad, sardines, and vegetables from the garden. Presentation was as important as the taste.

We ate at the table, not over the sink, because the ambience added value to our lives. In turn it led to many hours long conversations. The ideas and suggestions went back and forth, and we both benefited.

In short, the few minutes of adding a bit of beauty to lunch made wonderful changes in our lives.

Four great philosophers: Elbert Hubbard, William Morris, John Ruskin, and Frank Lloyd Wright taught that form and function take on their greatest meaning when they result in beauty. Morris' great dictum was, "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful."

This is vitally important because whatever surrounds us, in whatever form, influences our life. We become our environment. If we surround ourselves with ugliness or jutting juggernauts of junk, our heart and mind will imitate it. Our mind will cluttered and distracted, or we will become ugly and trashy people. Conversely, if we believe that there is elegance in simplicity, we get rid of the superfluous inventory.

This applies to people, as well. If we associate primarily with people whose vocabulary is primarily limited to four letter words, we will start talking like them. If we associate with people who have chosen to exclude vulgarity, we become like them, and we influence others.

Above all, if we surround ourselves with anger, hatred, bigotry, prejudice, meanness, pettiness or insulting words directed at others, we are influenced in that direction. In short order, we will become just like them. I think that also includes the sources of our entertainment, but above all our news. Before long, many of those who sought out the anger and ugliness will rally around a leader who promotes it, or join together with other like-minded individuals.

There is no such thing as "useless beauty." All of it is essential, but it requires attention to detail and, above all, a sense of inner awareness. Does it have form, function, and is it genuine? To answer those questions in the affirmative means having a heart as well as a brain. When those qualities come together, we have something memorable.

In the days leading up to Easter, I watched as a member of our parish worked on the design of our Easter morning bulletin. Basically, a bulletin is a collection of pages which contained all of the information: music, readings, the liturgy, etc. Instead, he spend hours selecting the right fonts, medieval drawings and artwork, and carefully placed them to create a memorable booklet. To be sure, it was something that very likely would only be used for a few hours, but it added to the beauty of the morning, and as inspiring.

Beauty, in whatever form, wherever it might be, is never 'useless beauty.'

Planting season underway, motorists urged to be aware of farmers and equipment

"It is planting season, and this is just a reminder to be aware of all the farmers with their equipment on the roadways. Berrien County just handled a crash involving a friend of mine who was pulling a planter down the road in a straightway and was hit at a high speed. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured from the crash, but in short, it should have never happened," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

"This is just a reminder/ warning that when MDOT or the Van Buren County Road Commission closes a road when they are working and we are there making sure drivers are not driving through the construction zone that is closed and someone does, there's a very high probability the driver in violation will be receiving a citation for it," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our Victim Service Unit was in Lansing this past weekend for training. The training is put on by the Michigan Sheriff's Association. During this training, they are updated on new materials to use on call outs, ways to help victims, resources that are available, etc," said Sheriff Abbott.

This past week, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response all had defensive tactics training. During this training, deputies refresh on take downs, laws, handcuffing, self-defense, etc.

Deputies were dispatched to Bronson Emergency Room (ER) for a stabbing victim who showed up. Deputies tried to gather information about the incident, but the victim was uncooperative and gave no details. "The injuries sustained were not life threatening," said Sheriff Abbott.

Deputies stopped a vehicle in Lawrence Township for window tint. "Through the investigation on the stop and the use of our canine which hit on the car detecting narcotics, meth and a meth pipe was located. The passenger was lodged for the incident," said Sheriff Abbott.

Deputies handled a semi crash in Lawrence Township on Interstate 94 (I-94) Highway. "The driver was tired, closed his eyes, veered off the roadway into the cable barriers. The barriers did their job entangling the semi, hence, stopping the vehicle without crossing into oncoming traffic. The highway did have to be shut down for a short period due to the crash," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our office will put on a presentation at the Van Buren District Library Webster Memorial Branch in Decatur on May 7, at 6 p.m. There is no cost to attend. The presentation is very informative and focuses on helping older adults understand how to protect their personal information and navigate the internet with confidence," said Sheriff Abbott. Discussions will also focus on recognizing and avoiding scams, safeguarding your digital presence, along with other related material.

To register for the event: https://vanburen-webster-mi.whofi.com/calendar/event/295473/s?method=embed . For further questions, call (269) 423-4771 or e-mail Laura at: ldorgelo@vbdl.org

The annual Van Buren County Fraternal Order of Police versus Detroit Lions Basketball game will be held Friday, May 9, at the Paw Paw Middle School gym. "It's always a fun event with several deputies and troopers playing against them. It's an event in which people get autographs, photos, etc.," said Sheriff Abbott

For tickets, go online to wolverineproductions.org or website fop136.publicsafetypsa.com

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Book sale at Decatur library

Reporters - Paul Garrod & James Windell

The Friends of the Van Buren District Library (VBDL) will be hosting a special book sale Friday, May 23 and Saturday, May 24 at the Webster Memorial Library (200 N. Phelps Street Decatur, MI). This book sale will focus on children's books (although other books will be available. This is a great opportunity to stock up on summer reading books! Come visit the sale on:

Friday 05/23: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday 05/24: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

The VBDL works hard to make sure the collection is up to date and meets the community's needs. As part of that process, books are removed from circulation throughout the year. This time of year is when the libraries weed out a lot of children's books that need new homes.

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PAW PAW FLASHES
SOUTH HAVEN BEACON

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SECOND ANNUAL CHEERS FOR CHILDREN - WINE SOCIAL HOSTED BY SAFE HARBOR CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER TO HELP VAN BUREN CHILDREN VICTIMS OF ABUSE

WHAT: Fundraiser for Van Buren County's children victims of abuse through a casual, 21+ wine social. Tickets are $35. Live music and appetizers. To register, please visit: **www.safeharborcac.org/events/cheersforchildren.**

WHEN: Thursday, May 8, 6 to 9 p.m.

WHERE: Beeches Golf Course, South Haven, MI (Address 09601 68th St.)

WHO: All funds from this event stay in Van Buren County to support the children victims and prevention efforts in our county.

COST: $35/ticket earns you three drink tickets, heavy appetizers, live music of Mike Hatfield and being surrounded by like-minded people for an evening! To register, please visit: **www.safeharborcac.org/events/cheersforchildren.**

Cheers for Children - Wine Social is proudly sponsored by Whiteford Wealth Management, Inc., and Coldwell Banker Sneller Real Estate.

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ABOUT SAFE HARBOR:
Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center is a nationally accredited, nonprofit organization that provides children with hope and healing through an array of services at no cost to the victims or their families. From a child's initial disclosure to their last day of counseling, Safe Harbor guides children through their journey of healing.

Generational tree planting celebrates Arbor Day

SOUTH HAVEN – South Haven Rotarians joined kindergarten students with their shovels to mark Arbor Day with the traditional planting of a tree in a city park on Friday.

The generational gathering of students from nearby Lincoln School and members of the Rotary Club of South Haven occurred at the nearby Elkenburg Park with the planting of a Frontier Elm tree selected by city arborist and parks superintendent Aaron Priebe.

It marked the sixth consecutive year that Rotarians have planted a tree in a city park. In addition to marking Arbor Day, the event celebrates Rotary founder Paul Harris who in the early 1900s traveled the world planting "friendship" trees to symbolize goodwill. The South Haven event also celebrated the designation of the city as a USA Tree City, a distinction awarded the community for the past 21 years.

Third grade children who joined the event were also treated to a presentation by "Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey", aka Rotarian Dan Williamson who serves as chair of the Bailey Museum, a national historic site. Known as the Dean of American Horticulture, Dr. Bailey was born in South Haven in 1858.

The children were also treated to the unique experience of riding in a bucket truck provided by TREECORE, a local tree service.

County Republican women hear talk on human trafficking

Who We Are – UnSilenced
UnSilenced
"What skills or connections do you have that could support survivors and their journey to healing?"

Robin Bolz, center, Director of Operations for "Unsilenced: Battle Creek Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition," a survivor-led initiative under the Kalamazoo Area Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition, spoke Monday night, April 28, before the Van Buren Republican Women about human trafficking awareness, survivor resilience, and Community Action-highlighting the realities of trafficking in Southwest Michigan. Bolz said, "Human trafficking is when someone is forced, tricked, or controlled into labor or commercial sex, often through threats, violence, or emotional manipulation, "It doesn't always look obvious – victims can be anyone: your grandchild, the neighbor's kid or the lady working the front desk. Traffickers may control their victims by talking away their money, ID, or freedom to leave…. It's happening closer than e realize – right in our own communities." According to Bolz, sigs of human trafficking include fearful, anxious, submissive behavior, signs of physical abuse, lack of personal identification, working long hours, unable to speak freely, and accompanied by controlling individuals. Bolz said Michigan ranks in the Top 10 in the United States for trafficking cases

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

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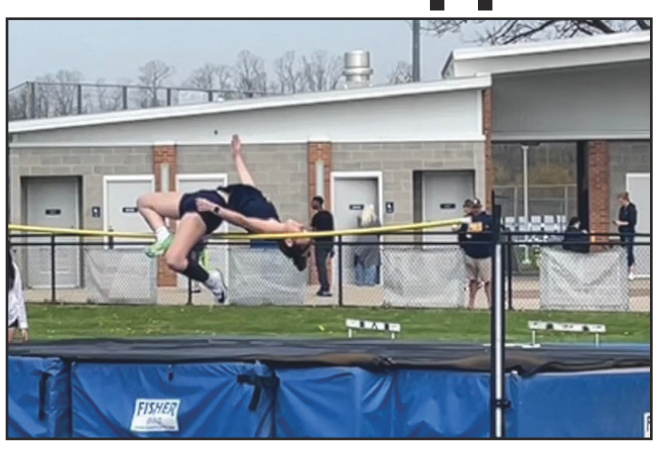
SPORTS

Gobles track girls defeat two opponents



Sasha Doll Cleared 5-2 in High Jump to qualify for the state meet.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — The Gobles Tigers girls track team on April 23 travelled to Fennville for a double duel with Coloma and Fennville.

Gobles defeated Fennville 106-25 and Coloma 99-29 to push their duel meet record to 4-0. Team awards went to the following athletes: Libby Smith earned the Diamond award for "Being a Dog" in all of her Events, and Clearing 4-6" in the high jump for the first time jumping this season.

"Tough as Nails" went to Sydney Raseman for running the 4x800. MVP went to Madison Cooley for Anchoring the winning 4x400 relay. The PR award went to Ellie Wood for setting PRs in both shot and discus.

The "Wow, I really am fast" award went to Daisy Estrada for running a 25.34 seconds in the 200 meter dash and breaking her own school record in that event.

On Friday (April 25), the varsity girls track team traveled to Loy Norrix For the Don Lukens Invitational.

"Our girls held their own competing against mostly Division 1 schools," coach Andrew Wood said. "Overall we finished in 5th place out of 11 teams. This was an Earlier Qualifier meet (New this year), which means if they met a certain time or distance or height, they could automatically qualify for the state championship meet.

"The girls were able to qualify two relays and three individual events for the state meet at the end of May. Daisy Estrada qualified in the the 100 Meter Dash, Madison Cooley in the 400 meter run, Sasha Doll in the High Jump, and the 4x100 relay team of Olivia Platt, Daisy Estrada, Sasha Doll, and Elizabeth Smith and the 4x20 relay team of Elizabth Smith, Daisy Estrada, Ava DeYoung, and Madison Cooley. Congratulations ladies.

"The team gave the following awards: Tough as nails to Kamari Shealy for running the 400, MVP to Daisy Estrada for winning medals in all 4 of her events, PR award to Sasha Doll for her 100 Hurdle performance and the Diamond award went to the whole team for being awesome and supportive of each other throughout the day."

Lawrence thrower off to an excellent start

Lawrence's Carolina Mancera had a strong season in basketball and cross country prior to this season.

By John Raffel

Carolina Mancera is having quite the start to the track and field season for Lawrence's track and field team.

She's a junior and she has been in some running events but is especially scoring points in the throws. She's taken seconds and thirds in the shot put her various meets and had a personal of 30-4 at Bangor.

In the discus, she has taken first places in the Southwest 10 meet at Lawrence and the River Valley Mustang Invitational. Her other three meets have produced second places with 94-7 at the Dale Shook Invitational, 102-6 for a season record at Watervliet Relays and 99-4 at a league meet in Bangor.

Her 4x200 relay team was first at a league meet in 2:01.98

It's her third year in track. Last year in the discus she qualified for the state finals.

To be good discus thrower, "it's more about form than anything," Mancera said; "You don't really have to be too strong. It's footwork mainly. To be effective in the shot put, strength is critical, Mancera said.

She also runs cross country and said basketball is her best sport. She was MVP of the Southwest 10 conference this past season. She averaged 14 points and 9 rebounds a game.

Lakewood sweeps South Haven baseball

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Coach Dave McWhinnie's South Haven baseball lost 12-11 to Lakewood in a road game on April 24

Eli Eddy was 3 for 5, with two doubles, 1 RBI, 2 Runs, and one stolen base. Wyatt Dotson was 3 for 5, with three RBI, one run. Jake Bosma was 2 for 4, with one run scored.

"We didn't pitch very well and struggled on defense. We still battled throughout the game to give ourselves a shot to win but in the end couldn't get it done, McWhinnie said.

South Haven is 6-0 in the conference and 6-o overall.

Despite the loss, South Haven odid collect 12 hits in the high-scoring affair.

Lakewood Varsity Vikings got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Carter Stewart doubled to center field, and South Haven Varsity Rams committed an error, each scoring one run.

South Haven jumped back into the lead in the top of the third inning after Isaac Chalupa hit a sacrifice fly, and Charlie Hiatt doubled down the right field line, each scoring one run.

South Haven scored five runs on three hits in the top of the fourth inning. Eddy singled, scoring one run, Charlie Morse drew a walk, scoring one run, Chalupa hit a sacrifice fly, scoring one run, Max Verseput was struck by a pitch, driving in a run, and Jonathon Bevevino drew a walk, scoring one run.

Jadon Schneider took the pitching loss for South Haven Varsity Rams. The right-handed pitcher went two and two-thirds innings, allowing two runs on three hits, striking out none and walking one. Eddy opened the game for South Haven Varsity Rams. The starting pitcher surrendered five hits and eight runs (five earned) over two innings, striking out one and walking four.

South Haven lost the second game 13-5 to Lakewood. Charlie Hiatt had two hits and scored a run. Isaac Chalupa had a hit, two RBIs and a run scored. Wyatt Dotson had a hit and RBI.

South Haven on April 22 swept Coloma.

"Wyatt Dotson and Ryan Kozlik did a nice job pitching, giving up just 4 earned runs. Unfortunately, our defense struggled again, giving up too many errors. Lakewood hit the ball well but long with the added errors led to many unearned runs which led to the loss for the Rams," McWhinnie said.

Lawrence athletes win medals

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE — The Lawrence Tigers track and field team made its presence known at the River Valley Invitational on Friday, powering through the cold to deliver impressive performances and secure a strong collection of medals to bring home.

Alexander Gardner 1st – Shot Put; 2nd – Long Jump.

Dillon Simpson 2nd – High Jump.

Colleen McCaw, 3rd – 100m; 5th – 200m.

Hailey Camp, 4th – 100m.

Carolina Mancera, 3rd – Shot Put; 1st – Discus;

Aurora McQueen, 5th – 800m; 5th – 1600m

Relay team of Hailey Camp, Kelsey Harroun, Colleen McCaw, and Leslie Reed came in 2nd in the 4x200m.

Relay team of Hailey Camp, Kaylin Leyva, Leslie Reed, and Colleen McCaw came in 3rd in the 4x100m

Lawrence softball

The Lawrence Tigers lost two games at Decatur last week.

On the night Leslie Reed, Hailey Camp, and Kaylin Leyva all hit doubles. Kelsey

Harroun chipped in with a single that became a run. Leslie Reed also made it home.

In the circle Hailey Camp struck out six Raiders, and Leslie Reed one. Kelsey Harroun was key in the outfield for the Tigers finishing game 1 with a diving catch.

The Tigers will play Monday at home against Bloomingdale for their next conference match up.

South Haven tennis girls fall

By John Raffel
Correspondent

It was New Buffalo over South Haven 7-1 in recent girls tennis action.

Singles:

No. 1 - Riley Tertel, New Buffalo def. Olivia Emenhiser, South Haven, 6-2 , 6-1.

No. 2 - Ava Totzke, New Buffalo def. Violet Burgoyne, South Haven, 6-0 , 6-3.

No. 3 - Ella Vyskocil, New Buffalo def. Harley Nail, South Haven, 6-1 , 6-2 .

No. 4 - Addy Cook, South Haven def. Charlee Churchill, New Buffalo, 6-4 , 6-2 .

Doubles:

No. 1 - Mary Barickman, New Buffalo - Addison Lamport, New Buffalo def. Evani Flores, South Haven - Elena Cavadas, South Haven, 6-4 , 6-1.

No. 2 - Issla Wagner, New Buffalo - Bailey Heimbach, New Buffalo def. Adeleida Arvizu, South Haven - Sarah Diaz-Salinas, South Haven, 6-3 , 6-4.

No. 3 - Madison Dodge, New Buffalo - Alice Morris, New Buffalo def. Leah Becker, South Haven - Regan Nail, South Haven, 6-1 , 6-0.

No. 4 - Emmaline Raducha, New Buffalo - Evelyn Ixtepan-Pucheta, New Buffalo def. Mireya Arvizu, South Haven - Sheyla Gonzalez, South Haven, 4-6 , 7-6 , 6-1.

Mattawan baseball at 8-2-3

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Mattawan's baseball team on Saturday April 26, in game 1 fell to Grandville 4-3. Troy Scarff led the offense with two hits. Kellan Wilder started the game and tossed four innings, allowing four runs, three earned, and striking out five. Nolan Jominy threw two strong innings, allowing just one hit and striking out one.

In game 2, Mattawan fell behind 11-3 heading into the bottom of the 7th inning against Holt. We proceeded to come back scoring nine runs in the 7th inning, to win 12-11. Kaden Jominy had three hits with the biggest one coming with two outs in the seventh inning to clear the bases.

Jake Vrba added three hits, with the game winning RBI, hitting a single to left field, scoring Bouma from second base to pull out the victory. Jack Reiter pitched the seventh inning getting his first high school win on the mound.

On Thursday April 24, against Stevensville Lakeshore, in game 1 Liam Walsh threw a complete game allowing just 1 run on 5 hits, striking out 4 and walking just one. Offensively Tyson Stratton and Liam Walsh were 2-for-3, but Tyson's double in the second inning fueled the offense for the Wildcats.

In game 2 Brody Houseman started on the mound going 4 and 2/3 innings allowing one run on five hits, while striking out five Lancers. Patrick Dougherty, Ethan Bouma, Tyson Stratton, and Brody Houseman got two hits apiece to lead the Wildcat offense.

Kaden Jominy in game 1 on April 22 against Portage Central, threw five innings allowing one unearned run in five innings of work. He struck out 10 batters, and only allowed two hits. Kellen Wilder closed the game throwing two strong innings. Ethan Bouma led he offense going 2-3.

In game 2 Maxx Vanantwerp threw 4 and 2/3 innings giving up four hits 3 runs (only one unearned), and struck out five. Liam Walsh came in the 7th inning to shut them down to earn the save. The top of the lineup had 6 of the 9 hits, as Patrick Dougherty, Kaden Jominy, and Troy Scarff each had two hits.

Mattawan is now 8-2-3 on the season.

Gobles boys have big day in Fennville

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — On April 23 the Gobblers Tigers boys track team traveled to Fennville to compete against Coloma and Fennville in this week's double dual.

The Tigers came away with some outstanding performances and 2 more team wins beating both Coloma and Fennville to improve to 4-0 in their dual meet record.

Meet awards went to the following. PR went to Noah Philley (17' 5) and Conner Morris (17'3) in the Long Jump, Mason Mansfield received the meet MVP for winning Pole Vault, 100m, 200m, and 4x100m relay.

Steven Juarez received the Diamond Award for throwing the Shot for the first time along with other sprint events. He placed 3rd in the Shot Put. The Tough as Nails award went to Coal Otis.

On Friday, April 25, the Tigers traveled to Loy Norrix to compete in the Don Lukens Invitational.

The boys finished 6th out of the 11 teams in attendance. This was their 1st Early Qualifier meet opportunity and it didn't disappoint.

Mason Mansfield qualified for the state finals with an early qualifier time of 11.3 to go along with a 3rd place finish, The 4x200m (8th place) and 4x100m (5th place) relay teams are not far off of early qualifying times either and as Gobles goes into the championship weeks of Track and Field the sprint relay teams of Nathan Ray, Max Sager, Steven Juarez, and Mason Mansfield will have opportunities to hit qualifying times.

In the shot put senior, Jackson Geiger threw 44-7 and placed fourth.

"One of the outstanding performances of the day was Hunter Piper in the 3200m run," coach Marc Kline said. "He placed eighth and battled a Mattawan athlete for the final six laps. Hunter set a PR with a 11:15.61 and showed grit and determination.

"For team awards Hunter received the PR award, Tough as Nails went to Cole Cannon and Cole Ringel, the Diamond Award went to Gabe Quinteros, and the MVP the Sprint Relays (Nathan Ray, Max Sager, Steven Juarez, and Mason Mansfield)."

Mattawan boys track team fourth

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Mattawan's track team competed in the Don Lukens Invite at Loy Norrix over the weekend. Men finished fourth and the women finished sixth.

Highlights include:

Teagan Kimble jumping a new PR of 5-2 and finishing 2nd in High Jump. 5-2 is the height she needs to jump at Regionals to make it to states.

Jack Nicey won the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.09 in the rain, after running a 22.74 in prelims.

Connor O'Rourke finished second in the 200 right behind Jack. O'Rourke also ran an 11.26 in the 100 Prelims to place him third all time at Mattawan.

The 4x200 relay team of Nick DeYoung, Jack Nicey, Connor O'Rourke, and Ben VanLoo placed 1st running a time of 1:31.62 3rd all-time at Mattawan

Coach Jarrod DeGroff said Owen Fisher had a day finishing third in the 1,600 with a new PR of 4:30, first in the 3,200 with a time of 10:00 and then directly following the 3,200 he led off the 4x400 relay running the fastest split on the team and helping to finish fourth.

"We head to a dual meet with Portage Central on Tuesday and then finish the week at Harper Creek for their Spirit of the wild Co-Ed Relay meet," DeGroffs said.

South Haven baseball sweeps Coloma

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven's baseball team swept Coloma 14-1 and 13-0 on April 22.

"We played really well," coach Dave McWhinnie said after the first game. "From Max Verseput pitching very well to collecting 17 hits and playing good defense…The guys played a solid game all around.

Max Verseput earned the win for South Haven. He gave up two hits and one run (zero earned) over five innings, striking out eight and walking none.

South Haven accumulated 17 hits in the game. Morse led South Haven with four runs batted in. The shortstop went 3-for-5 on the day. Ryan Kozlik, Elijah Eddy, and Jonathon Bevevino each collected multiple hits for South Haven.

"We started game 2 where we left off in game 1. The team came to play. They were ready to swing the bat from the first pitch. Our pitcher threw strikes and let the defense play for them. It was a great team effort in both games," McWhinnie said.

Elijah Eddy collected three hits in five at bats. Eddy doubled in the third inning, singled in the fourth inning, and singled in the first inning.

Morse earned the win for South Haven Varsity Rams. The starter surrendered one hit and zero runs over five innings, striking out seven and walking three. Maverick Kraemer took the loss for Coloma High School Varsity.

South Haven had 11 hits in the game. Dotson led South Haven with three runs batted in from the number seven spot in the lineup. The center fielder went 2-for-3 on the day.

Morse and Verseput each collected multiple hits for South Haven. Eddy stole two bases.

South Haven Varsity Rams ran wild on the base paths, piling up six stolen bases for the game. South Haven turned one double play in the game. South Haven Varsity Rams were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Bevevino had the most chances in the field with nine.

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SPORTS

Lawton soccer improves to 5-1

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Lawton Blue Devils continue their historic start improving their record to (6-1) after defeating Bangor 6-0 recently. Lawton held possession for most of the game and the combination of great passing, tenacious offensive and defensive pressure, led to 6 impressive goals and a clean sheet.

Sophomore Lilleonah Mandujano led Lawton with 3 goals, Senior Tiara Ellis found the back of the net with 2 goals, and Freshmen Addy Miller scored 1 goal.

Addy Miller and Lilleonah Mandujano both led Lawton in assists with 2 each. Tiara Ellis and Freshmen Lila Karsen also each had 1 assist.

Alyssa McNally and Emma Hackenberg each record the shutout in goal.

The team gets some well deserved R&R over the next few days and will take on Schoolcraft next week.

Paw Paw baseball wins twinbill

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — On April 22, Paw Paw varsity baseball swept a pair against Edwardsburg.

In Game 1 the Red Wolves cruised to a 7-2 win. Andrew Lehto picked up the victory on the mound going 4 outstanding innings, allowed 0 ER, and 7 K's. Maverick Johnson pitched 3 stellar innings, allowing 1 ER, and 2 K's. Gunnar led the offense going 1-2 with a pivotal 2 RBI double. Ryan Holmes and Grant each added a single and an RBI. Andrew chipped in with a single.

In Game No. 2 the Red Wolves jumped out to an early lead and held on for a thrilling 5-4 victory. Gunnar was a bulldog on the mound pitching 6 gritty innings, allowed 2 ER, and 5 K's. Maverick came on for a thrilling save with a scoreless inning. Remi Dempsey, Maverick Johnson , and Landon Bull led the hitting attack with each collecting 2 hits and an RBI. Landon's hit included a double. Hayden was 1-3 with 2 RBI's. Ryan, Gavin Allers, and Andrew each added a single.

April 23

Varsity baseball extends its win streak to 9 games after sweeping Michigan Lutheran 16-1 and 17-2. In Game Np.1 the bats were on fire led by Gunnar Good and Hayden. Gunnar went 3-4 with 2 doubles and 2 RBI's. Hayden went 3-3 with a double and 3 RBI's. Andrew was 2-2 with 2 doubles and an RBI. Maverick was 2-3 with an RBI. Landon added a double and 2 RBI's. Remi went 1-2 with 2 RBI's. Caden went 1-1 with 2 RBI's. Ryan added a single. Remi got the win on the mound going 4 innings, allowed 3 hits, 1 ER, and 2 K's.

In Game 2 Preston Criger kept the Titan hitters off balance all game long on the mound. Preston pitched a CG masterpiece that only needed 56 pitches! Preston went all 5 innings, allowed 2 hits, 0 ER, and 5 K's. Ryan, Gunnar, Caden, and Carson each had a multi-hit game. Ryan was 2-4, 2 RBI's, and a SB. Gunnar stayed hot going 2-3, 2 RBI's, 2 BB, and a SB. Caden was 2-3 with a deep triple, and 2 RBI's. Carson was 2-2 with an RBI, BB, SB, and 4 runs scored. Landon added a double, 2 BB, and 2 SB.

April 26

Varsity baseball extends its win streak to 11 with sweep of Marine City and Port Huron Northern. In Game #1 the Red Wolves jumped out to an early lead and never looked back with a 9-2 victory. Bryn and Grant dominated on the mound. Bryn got the win going 5 dominant innings, 0 ER, allowed 2 hits, and 6 K's. Grant was perfect in his 2 innings of work, allowed 0 hits, and 3 K's. Ryan, Andrew, and Caden each had multi-hit games. Ryan was 2-3 with an RBI and 2 runs scored. Andrew was 2-4 with an RBI and SB. Caden was 2-3 with an RBI and SB. Landon added a double and SB. Remi, Bryn, and Maverick each added a hit. Maverick had 2 RBI's.

In Game 2 pitching was dominant once again as Paw Paw cruised to a 9-1 victory over Port Huron Northern. Caden, Landon, and Grant held the Huskies to 4 hits, 1 ER, and struckout 8 in 7 innings. Leading the hitting attack was Caden. Caden went 2-3 with a double and 4 RBI's. Maverick was 1-1 with 3 BB and 2 RBI's. Gunnar went 1-2 with a double, RBI, and 2 HBP. Remi, Landon, Hayden, and Andrew each added singles.

The Red Wolves are now 14-4(5-1 conference)on the season.

Upcoming games:
April 29 = Away DH vs. Vicksburg
May 2 = Home DH vs. Sturgis

Paw Paw tennis team wins quad

By John Raffel
Correspondent

The Paw Paw varsity girls tennis traveled to Edwardsburg on Monday, April 21, and lost 7-1 to a senior-heavy Eddies team. The lone winner for the Red Wolves was 1st Singles Alyssa Crain, who came back in the 3rd set to improve her record to 12-2 on the year.

The JV Girls Tennis team also fell to Edwardsburg by a score of 6-2. Doubles teams Dakota Martorell/Maggie Willbrandt and Karsyn Reits/Chloe Gates played great and earned victories for the Red Wolves. Both Varsity and JV will travel to Sturgis on Wednesday to take on the Trojans.

Singles:
No. 1 - Alyssa Crain, Paw Paw def. Erin Letter, Edwardsburg, 1-6 , 6-4 , 6-1 ;
No. 2 - Julia Lewis, Edwardsburg def. Lexie Fisher, Paw Paw, 7-5 , 6-3.
No. 3 - Verona Moody, Edwardsburg def. Amelia Farrell, Paw Paw, 6-2 , 6-1.
No. 4 - Grace Leman, Edwardsburg def. Bree Huff, Paw Paw, 6-2 , 6-3.

Doubles:
No. 1 - Mya Eberlein, Edwardsburg - Abby Pryor, Edwardsburg def. Kate Rentschler, Paw Paw - Aili Shaughnessy, Paw Paw, 6-1 , 6-0.
No. 2 - Olivia Closson, Edwardsburg - Mara VanBuren, Edwardsburg def. Mary Stewart, Paw Paw - Brynn Flanders, Paw Paw, 6-3 , 6-2.
No. 3 - Bella Hankins, Edwardsburg - Abbie Hartley, Edwardsburg def. Mariela Pantoja, Paw Paw - Kylah Jacobs, Paw Paw, 6-2 , 6-3,
No. 4 - Brailey Fowler, Edwardsburg - Kady Yowell, Edwardsburg def. Lily Brausch, Paw Paw - Pam Seckler, Paw Paw, 6-3 , 6-1.

Paw Paw wins quad

The Paw Paw Varsity Girls Tennis team hosted the Red Wolves Quad on Saturday, and the girls worked hard all day to earn the tournament championship with 19 points. Kalamazoo Christian had 16. Hastings had eight and Bridgman had five points.

The Wolves swept Hastings and Bridgman, which helped them to finish just a few points in front of Kalamazoo Christian to win first place.

Bangor falls to Marcellus

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — Despite the challenging results, the Bangor Varsity soccer team has been putting in a lot of effort coach Antonio Robles said. "The team lost 2-1 to Marcellus on Wednesday and 6-0 to Lawton on Thursday night.

"However, the bright side is that the team is showing improvement," Robles said. "Madgaly Gonzalez scored our only goal from the penalty spot, and it's important to recognize that the players are working hard and making progress.

"Our next game was on Monday against Berrien Springs, with a start time of 5:30 p.m."

Berrien Springs prevailed 1-0.

The Bangor Vikings hosted the Comstock Colts in a hard-fought conference showdown on April 21 and came away with a 2-1 victory.

Freshman Isabella Macedo and Andrea Barajas-Gutierrez each netted a goal. Goalkeeper Solexey Calderon made three crucial saves in the second half to keep the Colts off the board, securing the win for the Vikings.

"It was a strong showing of resilience and teamwork as the Vikings earned their first-season victory," Robles said.

South Haven softball beats Gull Lake

By John Raffel
Corrrespondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven Softball scored 14 runs in the sixth inning, which helped them defeat Gull Lake Varsity Blue Devils 22-7 on Friday.

G. Strebeck doubled, scoring one run, M Dotson singled, scoring one run, S. Grieves doubled, scoring three runs, an error scored one run, A. Dekoning singled, scoring two runs, an error scored one run, Dotson hit a sacrifice fly, scoring one run, M. Verseput singled, scoring one run, K. Chalupa singled, scoring one run, Dekoning drew a walk, scoring one run, and M. Duda singled, scoring one run.

A single by R. Hahn put South Haven HS Var. Softball on the board in the top of the second.

Two more South Haven runs crossed the plate in the third inning to extend the lead to 3-0. Dotson hit a solo home run to center field, and Hahn singled, scoring one run.

South Haven Softball scored five runs on five hits in the top of the fifth inning. Verseput singled, scoring one run, Grieves doubled, scoring two runs, Hahn grounded out, scoring one run, and J. Wiley singled, scoring one run.

Dekoning earned the win for South Haven. The hurler allowed 11 hits and seven runs (six earned) over six innings, striking out eight and walking two. Renee Huyck started in the circle for Gull Lake Varsity Blue Devils. The starter gave up 19 hits and 13 runs over five innings, striking out two and walking none.

South Haven tallied 26 hits in the game. Duda and Verseput each collected five hits for South Haven HS Var. Softball. Grieves, Hahn, Dekoning, and Dotson each drove in three runs for South Haven . Wiley and Strebeck each collected multiple hits for South Haven.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

State of Michigan
PROBATE COURT VAN BUREN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case No. 2025-1058-DE
Estate of JOHN FRED WEINHART JR., DECEASED
Date of Birth: JULY 4,1944 (7/4/1944)
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, John Fred Weinhart Jr., died January 26, 2022 (1/26/2022).
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Karen Rutkowski**, personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Ste. 220, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

April 25, 2025

Attorney:
Willis Law
Chico S. Obande #P77880
491 W. South Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269-492-1042
Personal Representative:
Karen Rutkowski
1135 Lakeside4 Drive
Birmingham, MI 48009
650-353-1337

State of Michigan
PROBATE COURT VAN BUREN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case No. 2025-1055-DE • Judge Hon. Susan Metzger
Estate of CLARENCE A. CALVERT JR., DECEASED
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Clarence A. Calvert Jr.,, died January 14, 2025 (1/14/2025).
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Angela Buis**, personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Ste. 220, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

April 24, 2025

Attorney:
Schuitmaker Moraitis Law Office, P.C.
Christopher N. Moraitis P87052
181 West Michigan Ave.,
Ste. 1, P.O.Box 520
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-3177
Personal Representative:
Angela Buis
20504 Meadow Drive
Gobles, MI 49055
269-491-4087

State of Michigan
PROBATE COURT VAN BUREN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case No. 2025-1059-DE
Estate of KIRBY GORDON SIRCHER, DECEASED
Date of Birth: FEBRUARY 11,1958 (2/11/1958)
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Kirby Gordon Sirecher March 8,2025 (3/8/2025).
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Richard Stanley Sircher**, personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Ste. 220, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

April 23, 2025

Attorney:
Heidi A. Duncan P76168
107 Pennsylvania Avenue
Dowagiac, MI 49047
269-782-9895
Personal Representative:
Richard Stanley Sircher
1230 Ontario Road
Niles, MI 49120
269-357-4555

State of Michigan County of Van Buren
Publication Notice to Creditors
DECEDENT'S TRUST ESTATE
Decedent: Michelle Lee Brodie (a/k/a Michelle Lee Fisher)
Date of Birth April 9, 1949 (4/9/1949)
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The Settlor, Michelle Lee Brodie (a/k/a/ Michelle Lee Fisher, who lived at 70925 Fox Creek Boulevard, Lawton, Michigan 49065 Died January 23, 2025. There is no probate Estate.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Revocable Living Trust Agreement of Michelle L. Brodie u/a/d November 18, 1996, as amended, will be forever barred unless presented to: Melissa L. Spyker, Trustee, c/o Shamra M. VanWagoner, Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C., 277 S. Rose Street, Suite 6000, Kalamazoo, MI 49007, within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice. This notice is published pursuant to MCL 700.7504. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom letters of administration have been issued. Notice is further given that the trust estate will be thereafter assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

April 22, 2025

Attorney:
Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C.
Shamra M. VanWagoner P44020
277 S. Rose Street, Suite 6000
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Trustee:
Melissa L. Spyker
c/o Shamra M. VanWagoner, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C. 277 S. Rose Street, Suite 6000
269-383-5898
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

NEW CCS PUB -> COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: PNC BANK V. DAVID HOLZWORTH; ATTY: TROTT LAW P.C. - TROTT LAW P.C.; 1ST PUB: 5/1/2025; ATTY FILE #: 499675L03; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
VAN BUREN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 24-074232-CH NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE The property described below shall be sold at public auction, by an authorized sheriff/deputy sheriff or county clerk/deputy county clerk, to the highest bidder, at the Circuit Court for the County of Van Buren, on the 26th of June, 2025 at 1:00 pm, local time. On said day at said time, the following described property shall be sold: The Subject Property is situated in the Township of Porter, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and is particularly described as: Lot 26, Block 2, Sandy Beach, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 13, Van Buren County Records More commonly known as: 93140 Gravel Lake Dr., Lawton, MI 49065-8429 This notice is from a debt collector. Date of Notice: April, 21, 2025 Trott Law, P.C. 1559666

(05-01)(06-05)

VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Mattawan Council will hold a Public Hearing to consider adopting a budget and tax levy for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be May 12, 2025 before the Village Council at 7:00 PM in the Village meeting room, at which all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

The proposed budget will take effect July 1, 2025 and end June 30, 2026. The proposed tax levy is 4.2646 mills plus 5.0 mills for police special assessment. The Council may consider a different levy amount including a levy in excess of 4.2646 mills plus 5.0 mills for the police special assessment.

Budget Summary:	Revenue	Expenses
General Fund	$1,775,650	$1,775,650
Major Street Fund	$571,845	$571,845
Local Street Fund	$458,775	$458,775
DDA Fund	$804,500	$804,500
Police Cont. Education Fund	$12,506	$12,506
Metro Act Fund	$14,350	$14,350
Justice Training Fund	$2,806	$2,806
Sewer Fund	$1,652,365	$1,652,365
Water Fund	$1,125,110	$1,125,110
Motor Pool DPW	$299,614	$299,614
MPD Capital Project Fund	$120,000	$120,000
Total	**$6,837,521**	**$6,837,521**

This meeting will be held at the address below. Please send all written comments to:

Village of Mattawan
24221 Front Avenue
Mattawan, MI 49071
(269) 668-2128
Jolie Storm-Artis
Village Clerk

A copy of the complete proposed budget can be reviewed at the Village offices, Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

offices@mattawanmi.com

VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGDALE
TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMINGDALE, STATE OF MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE: 12.050 OFFICER COMPENSATION
ADOPTED: APRIL 15, 2025 • EFFECTIVE: MAY 15, 2025

12.050 CHAPTER 1134*
EFFECTIVE: MAY 15, 2025

12.051 OFFICERS COMPENSATION

Sec.1 the following named officers shall receive as compensation for services to be rendered by them the amounts set opposite their respective office from and after March 26, 2008.
- President $5,040.00 per year.
- Members of the Council (trustees) $860.00 per year.
- Deputies/pro-tem; $50.00 per month

Sec. 2 The President, Pro-Tempe/Deputies, and Council Members will be paid quarterly.
The Clerk and Treasurer will be paid monthly.
Other employees will be paid weekly.

12.052 PARTIAL YEAR'S SERVICE.

Sec. 2 Should any holder of the above named offices die, resign or become disqualified during the term of the office of such person, then they shall receive proportionate share of salary based upon the proportions of the year served by them.

TERM AND MANNER OF ELECTIONS/APPOINTMENNTS

a. Three Village council members shall be elected at each biennial election for the terms of four years each 0r until their successors are qualified.
b. The Village President will be elected every biennial election for a term of two years.
c. Village Clerk and Treasurer shall be employed position. Under this ordinance the initial Village Clerk will swear in the Council, President, Clerk and Treasurer (if applicable) and filing the bond required by law.
d. Open Council positions will be appointed as needed by vote of the Council with the appointee serving until the next General Election.

BASIC STANDING COMMITTEES

A. During the organization meeting each year the following committees shall be established.
   1. Parks
   2. Budget
   3. Streets
   4. Ordinances
   5. Sewer
   6. Business district, public safety, grants
B. New committees may be added when needed upon 2/3 vote of the Council
C. All committees will consist of three (3) members nominated by the President of the Village, one being the designated chairperson.
D. The Village President shall be the ex-officio member of all committees.

ORDINANCE APPROVAL/DENIAL
Ordinance accepted April 15, 2025
Motion to approve G. Simpson seconded by R. Empson
Ayes: G. Simpson, B. Strong, J. Crawford, T. Rankin, T. Fisher, T. Dickerson, R. Empson
Nays: None

VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGDALE
TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMINGDALE, STATE OF MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE: 20.251 ANTI-BLIGHT ORDINANCE
ADOPTED: April 15, 2025 • EFFECTIVE: May 15, 2025

20.251 SEC. 1. NAME
This ordinance shall be known as the Bloomingdale Village Anti-Blight ordinance. (Ord. No. 4 adopt. Aug. 10, 1972; June 20, 2023)
20.252 SEC. 2 PURPOSE
Consistent with the letter and spirit of Public Act 344 of 1945, being MCL 125.71, as amended, this ordinance is to prevent, reduce or eliminate blight in the Village of Bloomingdale by prevention or elimination of certain environmental causes of blight or its factors, which exist or which may exist. (Ord. No. 4 adopt. Aug. 10, 1972) (2023)
20.253 SEC. 3 CAUSE OF BLIGHT AND BLIGHT FACTORS
It is determined that the following, items could cause the blight or /blight factors, if allowed to exist. On and after the effective date of this ordinance no person, shall permit or maintain any of these causes of blight/or blight factors upon any property in the Village of Bloomingdale owned, leased, rented or occupied.
1. The storage of junk automobiles except in a completely enclosed building. For the use of this ordinance, the term "junk automobile" shall include any motor vehicle which is not licensed for use upon the highways of the State of Michigan for a period in excess of six months and shall also include, whether licensed or not, any motor vehicle which is inoperative for any reason for a period in excess of six months.
2. The storage or accumulation of junk, trash rubbish or refuse of any kind, for a period not to exceed (30) days. The term "junk" shall include parts of machinery or motor vehicles, unused stoves or other appliances stored in the open, remnants of wood, metal or any other cast-off material of any kind. The term "junk" shall also include machinery of any nature not used for a period of one year unless the same is stored within a building.
3. The existence of any structure or part of structure, which is no longer habitable as a dwelling nor useful for any other purpose for which it had been intended.
4. The existence of any vacant dwelling, garage or other buildings which are not kept securely locked, the windows kept glazed or neatly boarded up and otherwise protected to prevent entrance by vandals.
5. The maintenance of any building on any premises which is no longer used or useable for the purpose for which it was originally intended, and such non-use continue for a period of two years.
6. The existence of any partially completed structure, unless such structure is in the course of construction, in compliance with a valid building permit issued by the Village and the construction is completed within a reasonable time.
7. The existence of semi-trailers being used for storage, unless they are kept in a district zoned specifically for commercial business.
8. The storage upon any property of one or more junk snowmobiles or motorcycles, except in a completely enclosed building. This shall include any snowmobiles or motorcycles which are not registered with the state, cannot be lawfully driven where permitted, pursuant to state statutes, or whether so registered or not, any snowmobiles or motorcycles which are inoperable for any reason.

ENFORCEMENT
- The owner, and/or the occupant of any property upon which any of the causes of blight/ factors set forth above, shall be notified in writing to remove or eliminate causes of blight from the property within ten days of the notice.
- Notice may be served personally or by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by affixing the notice on two prominent places on the premises, in which case, a copy of the notice shall be sent to the owner or occupant at his or her last known address by regular mail with proof of mailing.
- Notice shall include a description of the blight to be remedied; it shall specify that the blight shall be removed within ten (10) days. Additional time may be granted by the Code Enforcement Officer where bona-fide efforts to remove or eliminate causes of blight are in progress.
- Whenever the owner and/or occupant fails to comply with the remedial order within the time prescribed, the Code Enforcement Officer may cause the blight to be removed and eliminated either through an available public agency or by contract and/or arrangement with a private persons. In such event, the Code Enforcement Officer and those persons conducting the removal may enter upon said premises for the purpose of removing and eliminating the blight. The cost of such removal shall be charged to the owner and
- The Notice of the costs of correction shall be served upon them by ordinary mail and delivered to the proper address or the last known address of the owner as disclosed in the Office of the Township Treasurer for said property. In event said costs shall remain unpaid for thirty (30) days following the date of notice, the cost of said removal and remedy shall be charged against the real estate upon which the blight existed and there shall be a lien placed upon said premises, and shall be assessed against said premises as an additional tax by way of special assessment for blight removal.
- Owners and occupants with a prior violation under this Ordinance found to have blight on their property are in immediate violation of this Ordinance and may be issued a citation without providing 10 days' notice.
- A violation of this ordnance is a civil infraction. Fines are:
- 1st Offense $150.00
- 2nd Offense $250.00
- 3rd Offense $500.00
- Cost of prosecution and enforcement of this ordinance may be assessed against the defendant upon such violation as additional costs payable to the Village. (Ord. no. 12 eff. Sept. 25, 1989; amend. Eff. Aug. 3, 1992) (original ordinance adopted; Aug. 10, 1972 published; Aug. 17, 1972; June 20, 2023)

ORDINANCE APPROVAL/DENIAL
Ordinance accepted April 15, 2025
Motion to approve T. Rankin seconded by R. Empson
Ayes: B. Strong, J. Crawford, T. Rankin, T. Fisher, T. Dickerson, R. Empson
Nays:None

MORE NOTICES

VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGDALE
TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMINGDALE, STATE OF MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE: 17.050 Manufactured HOMES
ADOPTED: April 15, 2025 • EFFECTIVE: May 15, 2025

17.050 VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGDALE, MICHIGAN (ORDINANCE NO.8 EFFECTIVE AUG. 1, 1983)

This ordinance regulates the maintenance of manufactured homes (singlewide or double wide) in the Village of Bloomingdale, County of Van Buren, and State of Michigan and to provide fines for violation of this ordinance.

17.051 SEC. 1 MINIMUM SIZE
After the effective date of this ordinance it shall be unlawful for any person, to park or maintain any manufactured home less than a minimum size of 16 x 80 feet or less than area of 1,280 square feet (ord. No. 8 eff. Aug. 1, 1960) (ord. No. 8 eff. Aug 1, 1983) (ord. No. 8 eff. Oct 24, 2003) (2023)

17.052 SEC. 2 LOT
It shall be unlawful to be placed on any parcel of land less than a full sized lot of 80 x 160 feet. (Original ordinance changed Oct. 21, 2003)

17.053 SEC 3 DWELLING
A per-manufactured or per-cut structure designed and used for living accommodations shall be used by a single family only. Under no conditions shall more than one (1) dwelling be allowed on a single lot. (Ord. No. 8 eff. Aug. 1, 1983)

17. 054 SEC. 4 AGE OF MANUFACTURED HOME
No manufactured home will be over 10 years old when placed on foundation.

17.055 SEC. 5 SKIRTING
Skirting shall be installed if the dwelling is not placed upon a basement or crawl space. (Ord. No. 8 eff. Aug 1, 1983)

17.056 SEC. 6 WHEELS
All wheels towing mechanism and/or undercarriage, shall be removed. (Ord. No. 8 eff. Aug. 1, 1983)

17.057 SEC. 7 WATER, SEWER
All manufactured home shall have an approved water supply, Village sewer and drain connections. (Ord. no. 8 eff. Aug 1, 1983)

17.058 SEC. 8 INSPECTION
All building construction, concrete slabs or placing of manufactured home within the Village shall be only happen after a Building Permit has been obtained from the building Inspector. (ord. No. 8 eff. Aug. 1, 1983)

17.059 SEC. 9 PENALTY
Any, person violating any provision of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a civil infraction. (Ord. No. 8 eff. Aug 1, 1983)
1st offense $150.00
2nd offense $250.00
3rd offense $500.00

17.060 EFFECTIVE DATE
This Ordinance shall become effective on the 20th day following adoption. Adopted; July 12, 1983, Published; July 27, 1983, Effective; August 1, 1983; Amend. May 2023).

ORDINANCE APPROVAL/DENIAL
Ordinance accepted April 15, 2025.
Motion to approve T. Rankin seconded by R. Empson
Ayes: B. Strong, J. Crawford, T. Rankin, T. Fisher, T. Dickerson, R.Empson
Nays: None

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• AUCTIONS •

ALL SECURE SELF STORAGE
will hold sale of abandoned property at a public sale pursuant in 540.521-570.527: Public Auction: 5/20/2025 at or after 9:30a.m. EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw paw: Arianne Morgan-Jimmerson, 241.

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The Van Buren Intermediate School District is now accepting bids for 8.5" x 11" white copy paper as specified on the "Copy Paper 2025 Bid" proposal. Bid packets are available for download at **www.vbisd.org** under District Services – Business Office. Bids are due **May 7, 2025, at 2:00 PM** at the Van Buren Intermediate School District Business Office, 490 S. Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted and returned unopened. The Board of Education shall not accept a bid unless it includes both sworn and notarized familial affidavit and Iran linked business affidavit. The Van Buren Intermediate School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any irregularities which it deems to be in the best interest of Van Buren Intermediate School District, and the right to award the contract to other than lowest bidder.

VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Mattawan Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a Public Hearing to consider a Variance Request received from **Antwerp Township**, for property located at **24821 Front Ave. Mattawan, MI 49071,** requesting a variance from the Village of Mattawan Zoning Article 19.35.
Parcel # 80-46-700-130-10 1169-D19B 14-3-13 738-702 E 208.71' OF W 544.31' OF N 417.42' OF SE1/4 OF SEC. UNPLATTED
The variance, if granted, would allow for an EMD Sign.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing on said request will be held on **May 12, 2025, before the Zoning Board of Appeals at 7:00 p.m.** in theVillage meeting room at which time all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. The meeting will be held at the address below. Please send all written comments to:
Village of Mattawan
24221 Front Avenue, Mattawan, MI 49071
(269) 668-2128
offices@mattawanmi.com
Jolie Storm-Artis, Village Clerk

Notice: The Palmer Beach Association will be holding the Annual Association Meeting to include the vote for Executive Officers at the Palmer Beach Pavilion on Saturday, May 24th, 2025 at 1pm. In the case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held at 69124 Center St, Paw Paw, MI.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PAW PAW TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION

The Paw Paw Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to allow "contractor's services" as a special land use in theNeighborhood Convenience Commercial District within Section 42-5.08 C. The public is invited to comment on the matter. The meeting information is below:

- Location: Paw Paw Township Hall, 114 N. Gremps St., Paw Paw, MI, 49079
- Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025
- Time: 6:00 PM
- Hearing and project information: call 269-657-4340 or email clerk@pawpawtownship.org

Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Planning Commission Chair at the Township Hall address listed above by 4:00 PM on the meeting date.

If any individual has a physical disability that may limit their participation in the hearing, please notify the Township at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PAW PAW TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION

The Paw Paw Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding the following request. The public is invited to comment on the matter.

Application:
- Request: Special land use and site plan for an accessory building deck to be constructed within 19 feet of the side lot line, a reduction of 21 feet (retroactive approval).
- Zoning District: ARR/AGR
- Project Address: 66689 41 ½ Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079
- Project Parcel Number: 80-14-028-034-00
- Applicant: Marc Swartz

Meeting Information:
- Location: Paw Paw Township Hall, 114 N. Gremps St., Paw Paw, MI, 49079
- Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025
- Time: 6:00 PM
- Hearing and project information: call 269-657-4340 or email clerk@pawpawtownship.org

Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Planning Commission Chair at the Township Hall address listed above by 4:00 PM on the meeting date.
If any individual has a physical disability that may limit their participation in the hearing, please notify the Township at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

ALMENA TOWNSHIP
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A SHORT-TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02

Please take notice that on April 16, 2025, the Township Board of Almena Township adopted Ordinance No. 2025-02, an Ordinance to add provisions to the Township Code of Ordinances regarding short-term rentals in the Township, to provide definitions and regulations regarding short-term rentals, to provide penalties for violation of the ordinance, to provide an effective date, and to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith.

Copies of the complete text of the Ordinance may be obtained from Sandi Rickli at the Clerk's office at 27625 County Road 375, Paw Paw, MI 49079, or by emailing almenaclerk@comcast.net.

The Ordinance has the following sections: Section 1: Title; Section 2: Purpose; Section 3: Definitions; Section 4: Applicability; Section 5: Registration; Section 6: Requirements; Section 7: Inspections; Section 8: Safety Equipment; Section 9: Violations, Revocation of Registration; Section 10: Severability; Section 11: Repeal & Savings Clause; Section 12: Effective Date, which is thirty (30) days after this publication.

Published by Order of the Township Board
Almena Township, Van Buren County

Sandi Rickli, Clerk
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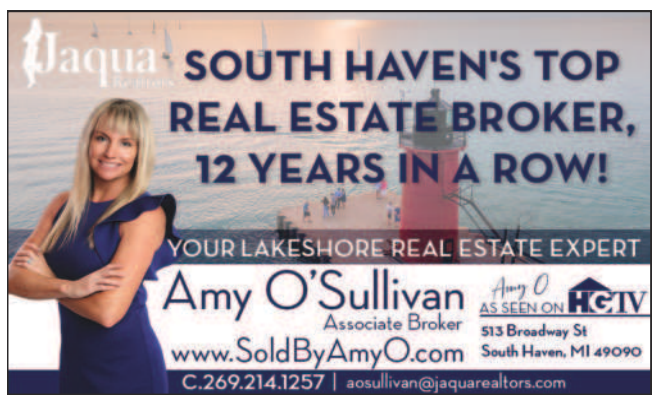

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